

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. Claim 5 is allowed. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 4 and 6 are amended to incorporate all the features of the base claim (i.e., claim 1). Claim 5 is amended to correct a typographical error. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is presented.

Entry of Amendment Proper

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration on the part of the Examiner; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Claim 5 Allowed

Applicant respectfully appreciates and acknowledges the indication by the Examiner that Claim 5 is allowed.

Claims 4 and 6 Allowable

Applicant respectfully appreciates and acknowledges the indication by the Examiner that Claims 4 and 6, although objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim (claim 1), would be in condition for allowance if rewritten in

independent format to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Claim 4 and 6 have been rewritten herein to be in independent format and to include all of the features of base Claim 1, thereby placing Claims 4 and 6 in condition for allowance.

Drawings

Formal Drawings of Figures 13-18 are submitted herein and include the changes proposed in the Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections filed June 13, 2003 and approved by the Examiner in Paper No. 6, i.e., the Office Action dated October 15, 2003.

Claims Recite Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 5,799,952 to Morrison et al. and U.S. Patent Number 5,758,879 to Flower. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. However, as Claims 1-3 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant respectfully submits the rejection is rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejection, allowance of Claims 4-6, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing attorney docket number 108179-00007.**

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures: Replacement Formal Drawings of Figures 13-18

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